Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 57 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

   receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

   apply, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, apply a respective set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific dimensional weightfor a particular package to be shipped input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

2.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

identify, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, calculate, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight according to the respective set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculations rules for the respective carrier; and

in response to the request by the particular respective user to ship the particular respective parcel, identify each respective carrier [from]of [a]the plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the particular respective parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular according to a calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for the respective carrier, and according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

calculate, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, calculate, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for [a]the particular respective parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to the respective set of parcel specifications and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculation rules for the respective carrier each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

4.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

compare the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for each carrier to a set of respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation[s] for the carrier; and

identify as a respective supporting carrier each respective carrier for which the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier does not exceed a set of the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation[s] for the carrier.

5.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 4, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

calculate for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each respective supporting carrier, calculate a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel.

6.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 5, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

calculate the shipping rate for the particular parcel for each respective service offered by each respective supporting carrier, calculate the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel according to a respective set of service-specific, carrier-specific parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the respective set of parcel specifications and to the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for the particular parcel and as applied to a[n] respective origin zip code and a[n] respective exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

7.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 6, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate an online comparison display of the calculated respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective client computer device of the particular respective user.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective

input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

applying, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, applying a respective set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific dimensional weightfor a particular package to be shipped input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

9. (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

identifying, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, calculating, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight according to the respective set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculations rules for the respective carrier; and

in response to the request by the particular respective user to ship the particular respective parcel, identifying each respective carrier [from]of the[a] plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the particular respective parcel ~~wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular~~ according to a calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for the respective carrier, and according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier ~~according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

10.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

~~calculating,~~ in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, calculating, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for [a]the particular respective parcel ~~for each carrier from a plurality of carriers~~ according to the respective set of parcel specifications and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculation rules for the respective carrier ~~each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting~~

~~user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, said method further comprising:

comparing the calculated <u>respective carrier-specific</u> dimensional weight ~~of the particular parcel calculated for each carrier~~ to a ~~set of~~<u>respective carrier-specific</u> dimensional weight limitation[s] ~~for the carrier~~;<u> and</u>

identifying as a <u>respective</u> supporting carrier each <u>respective</u> carrier for which the calculated <u>respective carrier-specific</u> dimensional weight ~~of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier~~ does not exceed <u>a set of</u><u>the respective</u> carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation[s] ~~for the carrier~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, said method further comprising:

~~calculating~~ for each <u>respective service</u> of a plurality of services offered by each <u>respective</u> supporting carrier<u>, calculating</u> a <u>respective service-specific, carrier-specific</u> shipping rate for shipping the particular <u>respective</u> parcel.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, said method further comprising:

~~calculating the shipping rate for the particular parcel~~ for each <u>respective</u> service offered by each <u>respective</u> supporting carrier<u>, calculating the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel</u> according to a <u>respective</u> set of <u>service-specific, carrier-specific</u> parcel shipping pricing rules ~~for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier~~ as applied to the <u>respective</u> set of parcel specifications and to the calculated <u>respective carrier-specific</u> dimensional weight ~~for the particular~~

parcel and as applied to a[n] respective origin zip code and a[n] respective exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

generating an online comparison display of the calculated respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective client computer device of the particular respective user.

15.   . (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for receiving, from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

a set of program instructions for applying, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a respective set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific dimensional weightfor a particular package to be shipped input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer

program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

    a set of program instructions for receiving, from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network;

    a set of program instructions for identifyingcalculating, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight according to the respective set of parcel specifications for the particular respective parcel and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculations rules for the respective carrier; and

    a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to the request by the particular respective user to ship the particular respective parcel, each respective carrier [from]of the[a] plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the particular respective parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular according to a calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for the respective carrier, and according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for receiving, from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

a set of program instructions for calculating, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for [a]the particular respective parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to the respective set of parcel specifications and according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculation rules for the respective carrier each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 17, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for comparing the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the particular parcel calculated for each carrier to a set of respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation[s] for the carrier; and

a set of program instructions for identifying as a ~~respective~~ supporting carrier, each ~~respective~~ carrier for which the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight ~~of the particular parcel calculated for the carrier~~ does not exceed ~~a set of~~the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation[s] ~~for the carrier~~.

19.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 18, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for calculating, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each ~~respective~~ supporting carrier, a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel.

20.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 19, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for calculating [the]a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel, wherein said respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate is calculated for each respective service offered by each respective supporting carrier according to a respective set of service-specific, carrier-specific parcel shipping pricing rules ~~for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier~~ as applied to the respective set of parcel specifications and to the calculated respective carrier-specific dimensional weight ~~for the particular parcel~~ and as applied to a[n] respective origin zip code and a[n] respective exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

21.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 20, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the ~~calculated~~ respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective client computer device

of the particular respective user.

22.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

apply, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, apply a respective set of carrier-specific b[B]illable weight determination rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weightfor a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

23.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel characteristics for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global

communications network; and

~~identify,~~ in response to a request by any particular respective user of
[a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, determine, for each
respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific billable
weight according to the respective set of parcel characteristics for the particular
respective parcel, and according to a respective set of billable weight
determination rules for the respective carrier~~each carrier from a plurality of
carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is
characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight
calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel
characteristics and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a
particular determined billable weight according to billable weight determination
rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the
computer system over a global communications network using a client computer
device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic
connection to the global communications network~~.

24.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said
shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer
device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

determine, in response to a request by any particular respective user of a
plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, a respective carrier-
specific billable weight for shipping the[a] particular respective parcel ~~for each
carrier from a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said respective carrier-specific billable
weight is determined according to a respective set of billable weight
determination rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, ~~wherein
the particular parcel is characterized by~~ according to a respective set of parcel
characteristics, for the particular respective parcel, input by the particular
~~requesting~~ respective user, and [by]according to a respective carrier-specific
dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for the particular
respective parcel ~~for each carrier~~, wherein each respective user accesses the

shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

25.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 24, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

identify as a supporting carrier, each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [of]the particular respective parcel, according to a respective set of carrier-specific acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular-respective carrier.

26.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 25, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

calculate, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier, a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel.

27.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 26, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

calculate the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for the particular respective parcel for each service offered by each supporting carrier-according to a respective set of service-specific, carrier-specific parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the respective set of parcel specifications characteristics for the particular respective parcel,[and] as applied to the determined-respective carrier-specific billable weight for the particular respective parcel, and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

28.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 27, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

generate an online comparison display of the ~~calculated~~ respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective user client computer device of the particular respective user.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

~~applying,~~ in response to each respective input ~~a request by any particular user of a plurality of users~~, apply a respective set of carrier-specific b[B]illable weight determination rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weight ~~for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network~~.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the

method comprising:

receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel characteristics for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

~~identifying,~~ in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, determining, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific billable weight according to a respective set of parcel characteristics for the particular respective parcel, and according to a respective set of billable weight determination rules for the respective carrier~~each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

31.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device, the method comprising:

determining, in response to a request by any particular respective user of a plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, a respective carrier-specific billable weight for shipping the[a] particular respective parcel ~~for each carrier from a plurality of carriers~~, wherein said respective carrier-specific billable

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weight is determined according to a respective set of billable weight determination rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, ~~wherein the particular parcel is characterized by~~ according to a respective set of parcel characteristics, for the particular respective parcel, input by the particular ~~requesting~~ respective user, and [by]according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for the particular respective parcel ~~for each carrier~~, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with ~~having an individual electronic connection to~~ the global communications network.

32.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31, said method further comprising:

identifying as a supporting carrier, each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [of]the particular respective parcel, according to a respective set of carrier-specific acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each ~~particular~~ respective carrier.

33.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 32, said method further comprising:

calculating, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier, a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel.

34.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, said method further comprising:

calculating the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for the particular respective parcel ~~for each service offered by each supporting carrier~~ according to a respective set of service-specific, carrier-specific parcel shipping pricing rules ~~for each particular service offered by the particular~~

supporting carrier as applied to the respective set of parcel specifications characteristics for the particular respective parcel,[and] as applied to the determined respective carrier-specific billable weight for the particular respective parcel, and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 34, said method further comprising:

        generating an online comparison display of the calculated respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective user client computer device of the particular respective user.

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

        a set of program instructions for receiving, from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

        a set of program instructions for applying, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a respective set of carrier-specific b[B]illable weight determination rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weightfor a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user and to a dimensional weight for the particular parcel determined by the computer system, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer

~~device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network~~.

37.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel characteristics for a respective parcel to be shipped by the respective user, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

a set of program instructions for ~~identifying~~determining, in response to a request by any particular respective user of [a]the plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific billable weight according to the respective set of parcel characteristics for the particular respective parcel, and according to a respective set of billable weight determination rules for the respective carrier~~each carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics and a dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for each carrier, wherein said set of parcel characteristics and said dimensional weight for each carrier translate into a particular determined billable weight according to billable weight determination rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network~~.

38.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer

program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

a set of program instructions for determining, in response to a request by any particular respective user of a plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, a respective carrier-specific billable weight for shipping the[a] particular respective parcel for each carrier from a plurality of carriers, wherein said respective carrier-specific billable weight is determined according to a respective set of billable weight determination rules for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by according to a respective set of parcel characteristics, for the particular respective parcel, input by the particular requesting respective user, and [by]according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight calculated by the computer system for the particular respective parcel for each carrier, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 38, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for identifying as a supporting carrier, each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [of]the particular respective parcel, according to a respective set of carrier-specific acceptable parcel characteristics rules for each particular respective carrier.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 39, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for calculating, for each respective service of a plurality of services offered by each supporting carrier, a respective service-

specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the particular respective parcel.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 40, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for calculating the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for the particular respective parcel for each service offered by each supporting carrier according to a respective set of service-specific, carrier-specific parcel shipping pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular supporting carrier as applied to the respective set of parcel specifications characteristics for the particular respective parcel,[and] as applied to the determined respective carrier-specific billable weight for the particular respective parcel, and as applied to an origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code input by the particular respective user.

42.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 41, said computer program product further comprising:

a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the calculated respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates to a respective display monitor configured with the respective user client computer device of the particular respective user.

43.   (Currently Amended) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

receive from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and

apply, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, apply a respective set of carrier-specific ratable weight determination rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to [a]the respective set of parcel specifications for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

44.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 43, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

identify, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, identify each respective carrier [from]of the[a] plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the respective particular parcel according to the respective wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel specificationscharacteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

45.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 44, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

determine, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of usersfor each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific ratable weight for [a]the respective particular parcel, for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to the respective set of parcel specifications for the respective particular parcel, and according to the respective set of carrier-specific ratable weight determination rules for the respective carriereach of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of

~~parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

46.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 43, wherein the <u>respective carrier-specific</u> ratable weight is a dimensional weight.

47.   (Currently Amended) The shipping management computer system of Claim 43, wherein the <u>respective carrier-specific</u> ratable weight is a billable weight.

48.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, <u>wherein said computer system comprises at least one computer device,</u> the method comprising:

<u>receiving from each respective user of a plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a respective user client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and</u>

<u>applying,</u> in response to <u>each respective input</u> ~~a request by any particular user of a plurality of users~~, <u>applying a respective set of carrier-specific</u> ratable weight determination rules, for each <u>respective carrier</u> of a plurality of carriers, to [a]<u>the respective</u> set of parcel specifications ~~for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

49.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48, said method further comprising:

identifying, in response to each respective input a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, identifying each respective carrier [from]of the[a] plurality of carriers that would support[s] shipping [a]the respective particular parcel according to the respective wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel specificationscharacteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight calculation.rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

50.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 49, said method further comprising:

determining, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific ratable weight for [a]the respective particular parcel,for each carrier from a plurality of carriers according to the respective set of parcel specificationss for the respective particular parcel, and according to the respective set of carrier-specific ratable weight determination rules for the respective carriereach of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

51.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48, wherein the respective carrier-specific ratable weight is a dimensional weight.

52.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 48, wherein the <u>respective</u> <u>carrier-specific</u> ratable weight is a billable weight.

53.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels ~~shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers~~, the computer program product comprising:

    <u>a set of program instructions for receiving, from each respective user of a</u> <u>plurality of users, a respective input of a respective set of parcel specifications for</u> <u>a respective particular parcel, wherein each respective user accesses the</u> <u>computer system over a global communications network using a respective user</u> <u>client computer device, and wherein each respective user client computer device</u> <u>is adapted for communication with the global communications network; and</u>

    a set of program instructions for applying, in response to <u>each respective</u> <u>input</u> ~~a request by any particular user of a plurality of users~~, <u>a respective set of</u> <u>carrier-specific</u> ratable weight determination rules, for each <u>respective carrier</u> of a plurality of carriers, to [a]<u>the respective</u> set of parcel specifications~~for a particular parcel input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network~~.

54.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 53, said computer program product further comprising:

    a set of program instructions for identifying, in response to <u>each respective</u> <u>input</u> ~~a request by any particular user of a plurality of users~~, each <u>respective</u> carrier [from]<u>of the</u>[a] plurality of carriers that <u>would</u> support[s] shipping [a]<u>the</u> <u>respective</u> particular parcel <u>according to the respective</u> ~~wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a~~ set of parcel <u>specifications</u>~~characteristics, wherein said set of parcel characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight~~

~~according to dimensional weight calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

55.　(Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 54, said computer program product further comprising:

　　　a set of program instructions for determining, ~~in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users~~ for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific ratable weight for [a]the respective particular parcel,~~for each carrier from a plurality of carriers~~ according to the respective set of parcel specifications for the respective particular parcel, and according to the respective set of carrier-specific ratable weight determination rules for the respective carrier~~each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.~~

56.　(Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 53, wherein the respective carrier-specific ratable weight is a dimensional weight.

57.　(Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 53, wherein the respective carrier-specific ratable weight is a billable weight.